

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : James A. Kost, et al.
FOR : SPREADER
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : MPEE 2 00023-3-2

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05 August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicant(s) has not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require(s) no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☒ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this

Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☒ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this application.

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP



January 8, 2004

Date

Robert V. Vickers
Reg. No. 19,504
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2518
216/861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

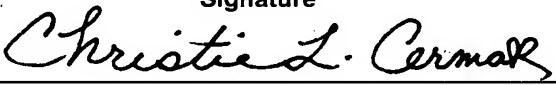
I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being

☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

☐ transmitted to facsimile number under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No.: EV 340035690 US
Date January 8, 2004

Signature 
Printed Name Christie L. Cermak

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	
	Filing Date	
	First Named Inventor	James A. Kost et al.
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket No.	MPEE 2 00023-3-2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-2,886,334	05-1959	Presler, J.L.	
	AB	US-3,374,956	03-26-1968	Brazilli et al.	
	AC	US-3,558,065	01-1971	Van Der Lely, Cornelis	
	AD	US-3,825,190	07-1974	Kauffman, John H.	
	AE	US-3,972,686	08-1976	Johnson et al.	
	AE	US-4,166,581	09-04-1979	Hetrick	
	AG	US-4,487,370	12-1984	Speicher, Paul L.	
	AH	US-4,776,519	10-1988	Zweegers, Petrus W.	
	AI	US-5,375,773	12-27-1994	Lewis	
	AJ	US-5,501,405	03-1996	Doornek, James R.	
	AK	US-5,988,534	11-23-1999	Kost et al.	
	AL	US-6,089,478	07-2000	Truan et al.	
	AM	US-6,422,490	07-2002	Truan et al.	
	AN	US-6,425,529	07-2002	Reinsch et al.	
	AO	US-6,502,771 B1	01-2003	Wyne, Mark W.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)				
	AM					<input type="checkbox"/>
	AN					<input type="checkbox"/>
	AO					<input type="checkbox"/>
	AP					<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
	AQ]	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AR		<input type="checkbox"/>
	AS		<input type="checkbox"/>
	AT		<input type="checkbox"/>
	AU		<input type="checkbox"/>
	AV		<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--